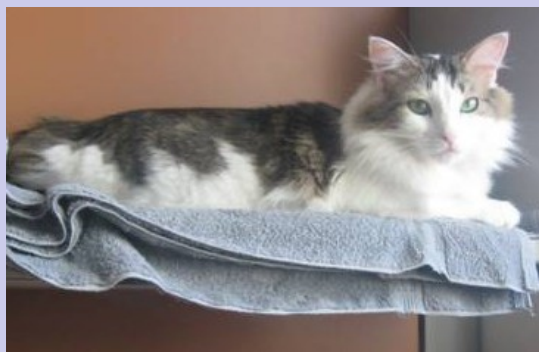




## REASONS TO ADOPT A CAT

There are many wonderful reasons to add a cat to your family. Here are just a few:

- Lap warmer
- Automatic alarm clock
- Affectionate
- Independent
- Known to lower blood pressure
- Self-bathing
- Potty-trained
- Entertaining (just add string or a ball)
- Do not need lots of space
- Life-long easy companion
- Pest control



## EVENTS

MCACC will hold monthly adoption specials and cat-only spay and neuter clinics every month. Check our web site for more detailed information.

**January** 2 fur 1  
Spay Neuter Clinic in Tempe, 85282

**February** True Love Adoption Event  
Spay Neuter Clinic in Phoenix, 85009

**March** Spring Into Action  
Spay Neuter Clinic in Mesa, 85204

**April** Purr-fect Match  
Spay Neuter Clinic in Mesa, 85201

**May** Pounce On It  
Spay Neuter Clinic in Peoria, 85345

**June** Desperate Housecats  
Spay Neuter Clinic in Mesa, 85202

**July** Preowned Cat Sale  
Spay Neuter Clinic in Glendale, 85210

**August** Back to School  
Spay Neuter Clinic in Tempe, 85281

**September** Fall Into... a New Love  
Spay Neuter Clinic in Mesa, 85203

**October** Black or Orange Cat Special  
Spay Neuter Clinic in Glendale, 85301

**November** Adopt a Senior  
Spay Neuter Clinic in Avondale, 85323

**December** End of Year Blow-Out  
Spay Neuter Clinic in Mesa, 85208

2500 S. 27th Avenue, Phoenix  
2630 W. 8th Street, Mesa

Phone: 602-506-3471  
WWW.PETS.MARICOPA.GOV



## Year of the Cat

### Saving the lives of more cats



Maricopa County Animal  
Care and Control

2500 S. 27th Avenue, Phoenix  
2630 W. 8th Street, Mesa

602-506-7387  
www.pets.maricopa.gov

## CAT CRISIS



Maricopa County is seeing a cat crisis. Thousands of cats are without homes and hundreds more are born every year.

Maricopa County Animal Care and Control (MCACC) saw 14,082

cats come through the doors last year. More than half of those cats arrive during the late spring, early summer months, resulting in an overwhelming number of cats and nowhere to put them. Intake increases a whopping 181% from the slowest to busiest months. With only 25% of the cats getting adopted and about 20% getting rescued, there is too large of a gap.

Cat euthanasia is higher than dog euthanasia. Unlike dogs, a small number of lost cats actually go back to their owners. More than 10% of the dogs that come to the shelter get returned to their owners compared with a mere ½% of the cats.

What's more, cats tend to stay longer at the shelter than dogs—9 days vs. 6. While only a few dogs stay more than a month, a handful of cats stay over three months.

MCACC has dedicated 2010 as the Year of the Cat to change these numbers, in effect, saving more cats lives.

## HOW TO SOLVE PROBLEM

MCACC has come up with a solution, but it will take the entire community to solve the problem. Following are ways you can help.

### **REDUCE SHELTER INTAKE**

- Get your cat spayed or neutered. MCACC will hold cat-only spay and neuter events in communities around the valley. You may also obtain information on low-cost spay/neuter for your cat by calling the Spay Neuter Hotline at (602) 265-7729 or [www.spayneuterhotline.org](http://www.spayneuterhotline.org)
- Try to find homes for cats whose owners can no longer take care of them.
- Participate in Trap, Neuter, Return (TNR) with the feral cats in your neighborhood.

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### **INCREASE SHELTER ADOPTION**

- If you are planning to get a cat, go to the shelter to adopt one.
- Share your shelter experience with friends and family and encourage them to adopt from a shelter.

### **RAISE COMMUNITY AWARENESS OF CAT ISSUES**

- Help MCACC educate the community. Pass out flyers in your community; put up posters in meeting places.
- Invite MCACC to speak to your neighborhood association.

## TRAP, NEUTER, RETURN

Through TNR, cats are humanely trapped and sterilized. Feral, therefore unadoptable, cats are placed back into the environment in which they were living. Volunteer caretakers provide food, water, and clean, unobtrusive shelters for the cats. Eventually, through natural attrition, the colony dies out. Any stray or tame, adoptable cats found in the colony are removed and adopted into homes. TNR:

- Stabilizes the population.
- Is more effective and less expensive than attempts at extermination.
- Eliminates or reduces annoying behaviors like spraying, yowling and fighting.
- Is the humane thing to do. Anyone who suggests inhumane and/or illegal methods of cat population control will be prosecuted according to the law.

To learn more about TNR, contact :

- Spay Neuter Hotline: (602) 265-SPAY  
Website: [www.spayneuterhotline.org](http://www.spayneuterhotline.org)  
Email [feralcats@adlaz.org](mailto:feralcats@adlaz.org)
- Altered Tails: (602) 943-7729  
Website at [www.AlteredTails.org](http://www.AlteredTails.org)

